

Latest update from Milton Keynes Council

As of last night there were 94 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Milton Keynes, an increase of 12 over yesterday's figure. The number of confirmed cases excludes those likely to be infected but not tested. There have been 11 deaths to date.

These figures are normally published each day by Public Health England (PHE) early - mid evening. They are most easily accessible via the BBC here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51768274>

PHE have warned that the number of deaths may rise as, from now on, they will include deaths at home or in a care/nursing home as well as at the Hospital.

HEADLINES

Community Action:MK have published a list of local groups volunteering to help in various areas throughout MK <https://communityactionmk.org/local-responses-to-covid-19/>

The Great Iftar Get Together 2020 scheduled for Thursday 7 May in Campbell Park has been cancelled

The MK Citizen is reporting that the Council has contracted with a local hotel to house homeless people during the current crisis <https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/luxury-hotel-milton-keynes-set-become-coronavirus-refuge-2523240>

The Milton Keynes Hospital Charity has received £11,000 in donations since the start of COVID-19. As well as helping support staff care packs, this has funded the kitting out of the new staff Well-being Centre at the Hospital to give staff a safe space outside of the wards. <https://www.mkhcharity.org.uk/about-us/>

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council has set up a dedicated telephone number for its pandemic Local Support Service aimed at vulnerable people in need of assistance - 01908 252398. This will be open Monday - Friday from 9 am - 5.15 pm (opens 10 am on Wednesdays).

Free car-parking for key workers will be permitted in all MKC on-street parking bays from 6 April. More details here <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/parking/free-parking-for-key-workers-during-coronavirus>

The Council has also ordered the removal of a misleading coronavirus advert <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/pressreleases/2020/mar/coronavirus-detox-advert-removed-after-mkc-trading-standards-investigation>

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly shopping vouchers worth £15 to spend at supermarkets while schools are closed due to coronavirus <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals>

(Nb: The above is the official Government statement - the Department of Education has also tweeted "We have been informed some parents have received an email stating: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'. This is a scam email - do not respond, and delete immediately")

New arrangements to get British citizens overseas back to the UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-partnership-with-airlines-to-fly-back-more-tourists-stranded-abroad>

NHS frontline workers from outside the UK whose visas expire before 1 October 2020 have had them automatically extended for a year <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-frontline-workers-visas-extended-so-they-can-focus-on-fighting-coronavirus>

Updated guidance has been issued setting out details of the Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF). This is version 3 - it also has updates on monitoring & reporting requirements, new annexes on state aid, Spotlight, post payment checks, and clarification on the eligibility of charities. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-frontline-workers-visas-extended-so-they-can-focus-on-fighting-coronavirus>

The slides used by Sir Patrick Vallance (Chief Scientific Advisor) at yesterday's Government briefing are available here https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876889/FINAL_Press_Conference_Slides_20200330.pdf

OTHER MK-RELATED ORGANISATIONS

Anthony Stansfeld Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner has announced that - with the cancellation of the May elections - he will be remaining in office for another year with Matthew Barber as his Deputy <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/2020/03/statement-postponement-of-the-pcc-elections/>

MK Pulse's April edition is being distributed by Royal Mail rather than their normal delivery company - there's a digital copy here <https://indd.adobe.com/view/b2081cb7-8c3c-4a48-82ad-7c1fcc75ec49>

For the time being it is planned only to produce a digital version of the magazine the first coming out around May/June.

MKFM is reporting that the MK Dons Sports & Education Trust is to host a food larder <https://www.mkfm.com/news/local-news/mk-dons-sport-and-education-trust-is-to-host-a-weekly-food-larder/>

NOTICES & ADVICE FROM OTHER WEBSITES

The Muslim Council of Britain has issued guidance to local mosques on a number of topics related to the present crisis <https://mcb.org.uk/mcb-updates/coronavirus-guidance-for-mosques-and-madrassas/>

The National Energy Foundation, a charity operating in Milton Keynes as Better Housing, Better Health is still open for consultations on home improvements <http://www.bhbh.org.uk/>